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MALARIAL FEVERS IN ALABAMA.

A STUDY OF THE PREVALENCE AND GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF THE DISEASE THROUGHOUT THE STATE DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR 1912.

By R. H. von Ezdorf, Passed Assistant Surgeon, United States Public Health Service.

Two thousand and ninety-nine circular postal cards were mailed to the physicians in the State of Alabama on December 1, 1912, calling for certain information regarding cases of malarial fevers occurring in their practices during the month of November, and 431 replies were received from 248 communities in the State.

The following is a summary of these reports:

Cases in which diagnosis was confirmed microscopically (some or all):	
In white patients	490
In colored patients	325
Race not stated	50
Total	865
Cases in which diagnosis was not confirmed microscopically:	
In white patients	1,310
In colored patients	1,108
Race not stated	36
Total	2,454
Grand total	3,319

The average number of cases was 7.7 for each physician reporting. Of the 431 physicians reporting, 90 used the microscope or availed themselves of its use in making the diagnosis; 207 reported the occurrence of cases in children under 15 years; 106 reported the occurrence of cases of malarial cachexia; and 219 reported the occurrence of chronic malaria.

The types of infection reported were as follows:

	Counties.
Estivo-autumnal	1
Tertian	12
Tertian and quartan	3
Tertian, quartan, and estivo-autumnal	32
Tertian and estivo-autumnal	18
None	1
Total	67

During the early part of December, 1912, blood examinations of 14 persons, taken at random in the city of Mobile, were made. The majority of these were in children. They were, according to age, sex, and color, as follows:

Ages.	White.		Colored.		Total.
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
5 to 9 years			3		3
10 to 14 years	1		3	3	7
21 years or over	2		2		4
Total	3		8	3	14

There were three positive findings of malaria, as follows:

One male, white, age 27 years. Had enlarged spleen; gave history of malarial fever during summer with attacks every two weeks. Estivo-autumnal young forms found.

One female, colored, aged 10 years. Gave history of chills and fever during the past summer. Was returning from school apparently well when blood specimens were taken. Tertian forms and estivo-autumnal (crescents) were found.

One male, colored, aged 26 years. Had slightly enlarged spleen. Complained only of headaches. Tertian forms found.

The reports of the State laboratory, furnished me by the State bacteriologist, Dr. P. B. Moss, show that 300 blood examinations were made during the year 1912 of specimens received from 31 counties, of which number 26, coming from 9 counties, proved positive.

A summary of the deaths reported in Alabama as due to malaria during the calendar year 1912, according to age, sex, color, and months of decease, is herewith given.

Deaths reported as due to malaria during 1912.

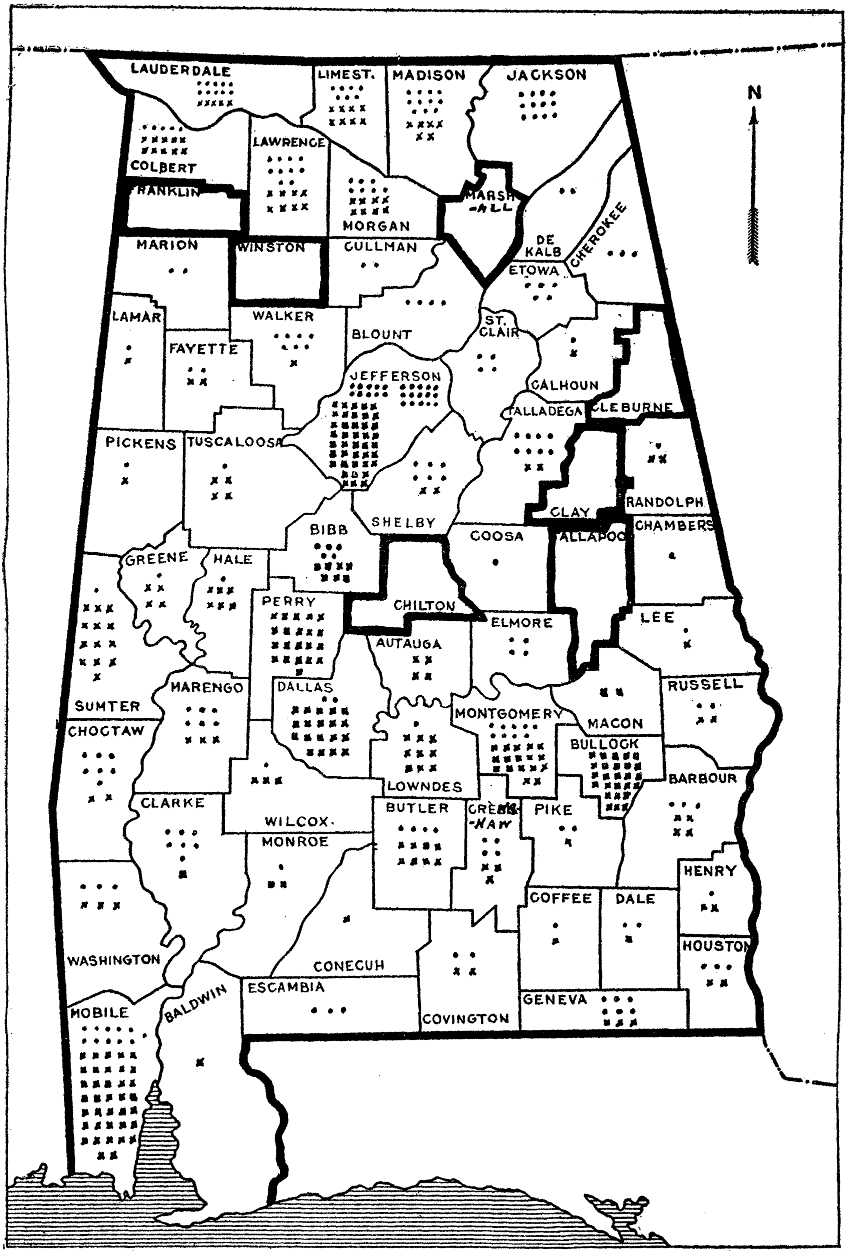
Ages and months.	White.		Colored.		Total.
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
Under 1 year	13	15	8	11	....
1 to 2 years	6	6	1	7	....
2 to 5 years	8	13	9	15	....
5 to 10 years	11	13	23	19	....
10 to 15 years	2	6	8	10	....
15 to 20 years	5	5	13	8	....
20 to 30 years	11	10	15	28	....
30 to 40 years	14	4	16	19	....
40 to 50 years	12	8	10	11	....
50 to 60 years	8	9	15	13	....
60 to 70 years	3	9	8	8	....
70 to 80 years	4	4	6	3	....
80 to 90 years	5	3	5	6	....
Above 90 years	....	1	1	1	....
Not stated	2	....	1	1	....
Total	116	117	145	168	546
January	3	1	4	1	9
February	3	1	2	3	9
March	....	....	3	6	9
April	4	7	5	4	20
May	2	7	4	7	20
June	6	4	7	10	27
July	14	10	17	18	59
August	14	16	21	31	82
September	28	27	24	35	114
October	23	24	30	24	101
November	7	9	22	21	59
December	12	11	6	8	37
Total	116	117	145	168	546

The seasonal prevalence was the same as that reported for the two previous years, the number of deaths being smallest for the months of January, February, and March, gradually increasing and largest during August, September, and October.

The number of deaths among the colored exceeded that among the whites, the proportion being 233 whites to 313 colored.

The number of deaths occurring among children during the first decade of life was 178, or 32.6 per cent of the total malarial deaths for the year. The reports show that 43 per cent of the total deaths from malarial fever occurred during the first two decades of life. Singularly, these percentages are nearly the same as those for the two previous years, which were 32.8 per cent for the first decade and 45 per cent for the first two decades.

There were seven counties which gave no report of death from malarial fever during the year, namely, Chilton, Clay, Cleburne, Franklin, Marshall, Tallapoosa, and Winston. Of these counties two, namely, Clay and Winston, gave no report of malarial death during the years 1910, 1911, and 1912.



MAP OF ALABAMA, SHOWING BY COUNTIES THE NUMBER OF DEATHS REPORTED DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR 1912 AS DUE TO MALARIA.

The deaths among the white population are indicated by dots and number 233; those among the colored population are indicated by X's and number 313.